

Sex Offender Classification Board Meeting

Minutes

August 26, 2005 – 8:30 a.m.

Present: Thomas Hearn - chair, Gary Horton, Pamela Huntsman and Moscelene Sunderland, members; Kathy Baird, assistant.

Guests: Director Tom Beauclair, IDOC and Board of Correction member Caroline Moline.

Discussion with Director Beauclair

There is a flurry of legislative activity with regard to sex offenders.

- The IDOC is working with the Attorney General's office and legislators to draft a legislative proposal for lifetime supervision of dangerous sex offenders and Violent Sexual Predators.
- Senator Goedde in northern Idaho is looking at a tiered risk level system for sex offender registration. He has suggested that the Sexual Offender Classification Board devise the system, then assign risk levels to all sex offenders in the state.
 - Mr. Beauclair questions whether there would be an advantage to the SOCB being involved in this endeavor -- unless they want to be. He cautioned the SOCB to be clear about increased staffing and funding requirements before agreeing to assume responsibility for this task.
- The department has hired a PhD level psychologist who will supervise the institutional clinicians, and to oversee the corrections mental health system. She has extensive experience in the correctional setting and working with sex offenders.
- Four community information meetings have been scheduled across the state. The department is hoping to engage communities in dialogue while providing them with factual information. The department hopes to shift the public's perception of Corrections and offender management.
- We need to focus attention and resources on the most dangerous sexual offenders. Violent sexual predators make up 1% or less of the sex offender population. Ten percent or less of the remaining sex offender population are considered to be "level 3" or high risk.

Minutes Approval

Minutes of the following meeting were reviewed:

- June 10, 2005 regular meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY HORTON TO APPROVE THE JUNE 10TH MINUTES AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA HUNTSMAN AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Budget Update – Kathy Baird, SOCB Assistant

The SOCB ended FY'05 with a small amount of operating funds remaining.

- There is the potential for FY'06 funds to be greatly impacted by an increase in probation and parole officers making referrals for VSP reviews, due to the focus on and closer scrutiny of sexual offenders who are under supervision.

Tiered Sex Offender Risk Level System

When the state's sex offender registration law was rewritten in 1998, the state elected to wait until looming country-wide legal challenges to tiered risk level systems were resolved. Several courts have upheld tiered risk level systems and Idaho legislators are now considering such a measure for this state.

- Possible actions discussed by the board:
 - A 3-level tier system with VSP designation. Lawmakers will need to determine who will define the levels, who will review offenders and assign risk levels, and what legislative changes will be required to effect the system.
 - More frequent registration for VSP's.
 - Lifetime supervision for dangerous and high-risk sex offenders, as well as VSP's.
 - GPS monitoring of dangerous and high-risk sex offenders.
 - Fiscal impact to state funds.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PAMELA HUNTSMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GARY HORTON, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Executive Session

- Legal review, pursuant to I.C. 67-2345 (1)(f).
- Psychosexual Evaluator Certification Application Reviews.
 - 2 applications were reviewed and approved for certification.
- Sex offender case review, pursuant to I.C. 67-2345 (1)(h) and I.C. 18-8315.
 - Parolee William Hart, #64690 was designated as a violent sexual predator.
 - Inmate Alisha Smith, #67189 decision was tabled for future review.

The meeting returned to regular session.

Risk Assessments and Clinician Training

- MnSOST-R refresher training for institutional clinicians will be conducted by Dr. Horton on Thursday, 10/6/05.
- They will also receive training on the Static-99 risk assessment.

Miscellaneous Business

- The board will meet again on Friday, 10/7/05.

The meeting was concluded at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathy Baird
Management Assistant